

CoRIS

NOAA'S CORAL REEF INFORMATION SYSTEM

<http://coris.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) is a single point of access to NOAA coral ecosystem information and data, particularly those derived from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP). The CRCP supports effective management and sound science to preserve, sustain, and restore valuable coral ecosystems.

WHAT CoRIS OFFERS...

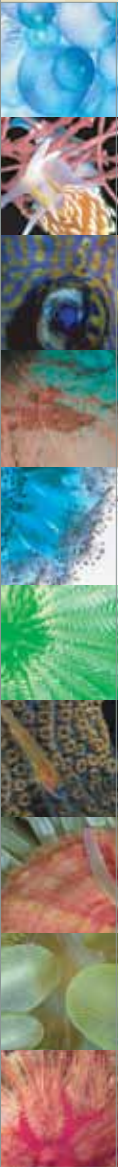
Data and Publications

CoRIS data discovery tools provide access to metadata, data, and information from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and other coral ecosystem projects. CoRIS includes coral reef mapping and monitoring data and products, coral bleaching nowcasts, satellite data and products, environmental sensitivity index maps, aerial photography, and much more. Users can search for data and information in three different ways: an interactive Google Map Search that allows one to locate available data by region, a text-based keyword search, and a series of browsable lists of data arranged by keywords.

The CoRIS Library is a searchable catalog of more than 5,600 entries describing coral ecosystem related data, publications, and websites. Library resources include references to data and metadata created by NOAA researchers, citations of peer-reviewed articles, references to NOAA publications and conference proceedings, educational and outreach materials, and links to NOAA and other coral reef websites. Direct on-line access to literature is provided where available.

Regional Data Portal

The Regional Portal provides users with regionally-focused access to metadata, data, and information about coral ecosystems in a clear, concise, and integrated way. While the focus of the information is NOAA coral data, activities, information, and products, non-CRCP activities that fall under the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force umbrella are also included. Interactive maps provide access to region-specific data and publications; regional chapters of *The State of Coral Reef Ecosystems of the United States and Pacific Freely Associated States* from 2002, 2005, and 2008; links to CoRIS metadata records; real-time and near-real-time data; education and outreach materials; information about Marine Protected Areas and Marine Managed Areas; and much more.



About Coral Reefs

CoRIS offers original essays that describe coral biology and physiology, reef structure, natural and human threats to corals, coral diseases, and deep-sea coral communities. In addition, CoRIS now offers a series of essays that provide current information on the status of coral reef ecosystems in United States jurisdictions in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico. The essays provide links to applicable metadata and data throughout the Web site and CoRIS catalogs.

Professional Exchanges

CoRIS Professional Exchanges capture the lively debates of experts on contemporary coral reef issues. Exchanges are derived from discussions on NOAA's Coral Health and Monitoring Program (CHAMP) "Coral-list" listserv, which includes hundreds of participants worldwide.

NOAA's Coral Reef Activities

More than 35 offices across NOAA carry out the work of NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program. This section summarizes NOAA's coral reef activities and the work of participating offices. It also provides direct access to major reports produced by the CRCP and its partners.

The Glossary

Can you define dactylozoid? The colorfully-illustrated Glossary, one of the most popular features of CoRIS, defines thousands of technical and scientific terms used in coral reef science and management. The Glossary is updated regularly and continually expanding.

CoRIS provides access to the wealth of coral ecosystem data and information collected by NOAA worldwide, with emphasis on the U.S. states, territories, and remote island areas. These include the Main Hawai`ian Islands, Northwestern Hawai`ian Islands, U.S. states bordering the Gulf of Mexico and the southern Atlantic, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Navassa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, American Samoa, and the U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAs).

Metadata and Other Tools

CoRIS search engines rely on *metadata* that describe and document NOAA's coral reef data sets and data products. Metadata include the "who, what, when, where, why, and how" of each data set or product. The CoRIS Web site offers guidance to help users create descriptive metadata and informative tools, such as an extensive Acronyms and Abbreviations List, a tool for preparers of biological metadata that adheres to the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) schemata for higher taxa, and much more.



NOAA
CORAL REEF
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

For more information, please visit: <http://coris.noaa.gov/>
or contact CoRIS staff at: coris@noaa.gov